

July 2013



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Franklin County FSA Updates

Franklin County FSA Office

1533 E. Spokane St., Ste. A
Pasco, WA 99301

Phone: 509-545-8543
Fax: 509-547-2007

Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. - 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Chris Herron – Chair

Terri Hayles – Vice Chair

Scott Knight – Member

Farm Program Staff

Bruce Clatterbuck, CED ext.104
bruce.clatterbuck@wa.usda.gov

Lynda O'Connor, PT ext.111

Patty Welch, PT ext. 190

Bonnie Anderson, PT ext. 110

Farm Loan Staff

Joyce Nevinsginsberg, SFLO

Nominees Sought for Franklin County FSA Committee

Eligible voters (farmers, ranchers, dairymen and orchardists that have a risk in growing crops and/or raise livestock) within Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2, **(which includes the communities and farming areas of Eltopia (and Merrill's corner) and farmland south and west of Mesa and north of Pasco)** are encouraged to nominate themselves or an eligible producer to serve a 3 year term on the Franklin County FSA Committee.

A map of FSA county committee election areas can be found by clicking on this link: [County Election LAA Map](#) .

Nomination forms must be submitted to the Franklin County FSA Office by **August 1, 2013.**

County Committees ensure the fair and equitable administration of the various FSA programs administered in the County Office. County Committees are also the place that producers can appeal most FSA decisions. Committee members are compensated for official travel and duty hours. Time expenditure is minimal and generally consists of a 2-3 hour meeting in Pasco once a month maximum and usually only eight months out of the year.

Beyond learning about farm programs, past and present Committee members have stated over and over that one of the of the benefits of the position is gaining a greater understanding of the cultures of farming and ranching within the scope of the entire county both irrigated and dryland (and all that is between) and have appreciated the COC experience for that.

Elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms January 1, 2014. Please contact Bruce Clatterbuck, County Executive Director for any election questions or to request a nominating petition.

Acreage Report Deadline Nears

ext.105

FSA Web sites:

State:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

National:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Dates to Remember

- **July 4** – Service Center closed for Independence Day

- **July 15** – Deadline for 2012 ACRE production and 2013 crop reporting

- **Aug. 2** - Deadline for DCP sign-up

*Special Accommodations: Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting, event or function should contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.

Filing an accurate FSA acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. The deadline to certify your acres is **July 15th**. Please call for an appointment if you have not already done so, and remember to have your plant dates ready.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Also, please don't forget that the multiple crop reporting deadlines mentioned in previous newsletters will be enforced in 2014. Click on the hyperlink below or contact our office or visit the state website (see left column) for the amended crop specific dates starting with 2014 fall/winter planted crops like wheat. [New Crop Acreage Reporting Deadlines](#)

DCP Sign-up Deadline Nears

The sign-up period for DCP is still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the **Aug. 2, 2013**, deadline. The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012.

2012 ACRE Production Reporting Requirement

If your farm participated in the 2012 ACRE program you are reminded that as a condition of eligibility for payment, the owner or operator with a share of the crop must submit production reports. Production reports are needed for all 2012 ACRE program commodities for which acreage reports greater than zero were submitted. The deadline for submitting production reports is **July 15, 2013**.

Failure to timely complete production reports (FSA-658) will result in a request for refund of all Direct and ACRE program payments issued for the farm's 2012 ACRE Program participation.

Deadline to Submit Production for NAP Covered Crops

Producers who obtain FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are required to report annually all production for NAP covered crops. This maintains your compliance with NAP program requirements. Production information can be provided to the county office either by submitting actual production evidence, or certified production supplied verbally. Regardless of how you choose to provide your production information, it must include a signed CCC-452 form (Actual Production History Form).

The deadline to submit a signed CCC-452 is close of business Monday **July 15, 2013**. Failure to timely report production may negatively affect future year approved yield calculations for your NAP covered crops.

NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES FOR THE 2014 CROP YEAR

- 8/31/2013 – Canola; carrots (for seed, fresh or processing); Christmas trees; floriculture; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.
- 9/30/2013 – Mint; perennial grazing land, forage, mixed forage, and forage seed crops.
- 11/20/2013 – Perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category; asparagus; berries; grapes; honey; hops; tree fruits and nuts.
- 3/15/2014 – Beets (for seed or fresh); buckwheat; camelina; mustard; radish (for seed or fresh); small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats, peas); and any other spring planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

NAP coverage should be purchased at least 30 days before the crop is planted, but no later than the application closing date. NAP coverage cannot be offered on any crop for which Federal Crop Insurance is available in the county.

2013 Crop Losses

2013 weather in Franklin County and surrounding areas has provided for some interesting coffee shop and water cooler discussions. Fall and winter drought, several hard spring freezes/frosts, record breaking heat in May, and several weeks of persistent rains coupled with several thunder storms and hail which separately and collectively have no doubt taken a toll on some of our county crops. The office is currently assessing crop damage and putting numbers together to submit a county-wide loss report to our state office and on up the line (as we are charged to do when crops are adversely impacted by disastrous weather), however it takes some good loss data for report justification. To minimize phone activity in an already busy office period, we're asking producers that have a good idea about their significant 2013 crop losses to email Bruce Clatterbuck with a brief assessment as soon as possible. Please provide the following **per crop**:

- crop name
- the loss cause event
- approximate date or dates of the disaster event
- affected crop acreage
- total acreage of the disaster crop farmed in 2013
- projected or known production loss percentage (for the entire 2013 acreage of the specific crop affected in all fields farmed)

Email Bruce at: bruce.clatterbuck@wa.usda.gov

PLEASE NOTE: The above report does not replace the formal loss reporting requirement for damaged crops under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and/or FSA's NAP coverage.

FCIC covered loss producers and producers with damaged crops not covered by any form of risk protection can formalize their losses with FSA on form FSA-576 for historical purposes. Failed and/or prevented planted acreage must be reported on an FSA-578 acreage report timely (within 15 days of the disaster event and/or damage becomes apparent). Timely performed FSA field inspections may also be required to justify the loss report.

Disaster Debt Set-Aside Program

When FSA direct loan borrowers are located in a designated disaster area or contiguous county, and are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt, FSA is authorized to consider set-aside of some payments to allow the operation to continue.

Borrowers have eight months from the date of designation to apply for the program. A complete application

includes a written request from all liable parties, actual production, income and expense records for the period in which disaster occurred, and other items as required. Production, income and expense records are not required in instances where the agency already has the information.

Borrowers are eligible to receive the disaster set-aside based on the following:

- The borrower is unable to pay all family living and farm operating expenses, payments to other creditors and payments to FSA;
- The borrower must have operated the farm or ranch at the time of the disaster;
- Each loan considered for disaster set-aside must have been outstanding at the time of the disaster;
- The borrower must be current or not more than one installment behind on any FSA loan;
- The loan considered for disaster set-aside must have at least a term of 2 years remaining on the payments;
- After the disaster set-aside is completed, the borrower must be current with FSA payments;
- The amount set aside cannot exceed one year's FSA payment;
- Each loan can only receive one disaster set-aside; and
- The borrower must be able to develop a positive cash-flow projection for the coming year.

Each payment set-aside must be repaid prior to the final maturity of the note. Any principal set-aside will continue to accrue interest until it is repaid.

Historical Aerial Photographs Available

The USDA's Aerial Photography Field Office is making available high quality aerial photographs. The field office lab can print photos on site from more than 70,000 rolls of film acquired over the years of acquiring aerial photographs to support federal farm programs.

Historical photographs can play a role in property boundary disputes, determining past land use or environmental assessments.

The Aerial Photography Field Office is home to one of the country's largest aerial film libraries. The imagery dates from 1955 to the present. The imagery is available to the general public for a minimal cost. The lab can provide black and white, color infrared or natural color prints depending on the original film type. Enlargements up to 38" x 38" are available. Photo scans for use on a computer can also be ordered.

To order aerial photography, contact the Aerial Photography Field Office and be prepared to provide an accurate description of the area you wish to be included in your photo. This can be a legal description, latitude and longitude, or a local map.

USDA Farm Service Agency

Aerial Photography Field Office

2222 West 2300 South

Salt Lake City, UT 84110-2020

801-844-2922

Apfo.sales@slc.usda.gov

Happy Trails to Patty Welch

We are sad to say that Patty Welch will be leaving the Franklin County Farm Service Agency at the end of this month and she will be missed!

Patty answered a call that I (Bruce) put out for summer employment in the spring of 2002 and she was on board with us under what we categorized an intermittent temporary Program Technician that May (intermittent meaning 90 days or less). Turned out to be a little longer than a temporary summer employ, eh Patty?!

Patty was hired to assist in and then was assigned as a full time employee responsible for the administrative and office compliance program areas and since that time has been assigned a multitude of duties, including CRP cost share, GIS mapping and crop insurance related support duties. Sometimes it's the little (but big) behind the scenes things you find you'll miss most in a staffer like Patty, like knowing she would have the monthly County Committee meetings set-up and ready to go, voluntarily load up the vending machine so we all could get our afternoon candy fix and probably her favorite (to our benefit), tinkering with the broken down copier, printers or fax machines to get them running again for us all.

Patty will be missed by all of us at the Franklin County USDA Service Center, but so too this applies to the many farm and ranch producers and other partner customers she served and served with these past 11 years. So to afford you opportunity, please stop by the office on her last day, **July 31 around 2:30 p.m.** for cake and coffee (**or anytime in the day for that matter**) and with us, bid her a fond farewell.

Good luck and God bless Patty, in all your future endeavors!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).